The New Orleans Custom House is one of the oldest buildings owned by the United States in the South.

A portion of the ground on which it stands was once used for one of the Spanish forts build in 1794 by El Baron de Carondelet and was named Fort San Luis.

The cornerstone was laid in 1849. The marble hall is 95 by 125 feet and 54 feet high. The Italian marble used is said to have cost $310,000. The building is of granite.

3—A. HIRSCHWITZ, NEW ORLEANS, LA

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